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Figure 1: Organization of Veterinary Services in East Germany, 1960.

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NIS 13A - Section 45

East Germany

A. General

East German veterinary services have made marked progress in raising the standards of animal health and food sanitation which had deteriorated during wartime and unsettled post-war years. However, most of Germany's veterinary accomplishments are not comparable to those of West Germany. This is largely due to the fact that East Germany's post-war recovery was severely hampered by her obligation to deliver goods and raw materials to East bloc countries and by the depletion of her livestock resources through occupation army requisitions and seizures. In contrast, West Germany's post-war rehabilitation was considerably hastened by U.S. Marshall Plan aid.

East German livestock producers cooperate willingly with veterinary authorities in improving livestock health and animal food sanitation.

Local and regional veterinary authorities, under direction of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, exert a firm control over all veterinary activities.

East Germany's veterinary force, while thoroughly competent, presently lacks sufficient numerical strength to satisfy the country's requirements. However, every effort is being made to increase the number of veterinarians. The veterinary services are complemented by the use of well-trained technical lay personnel.

Much attention is given to the advancement of veterinary research, which is of high caliber and compares favorably with that of West Germany and other advanced

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European countries.

East German veterinarians are keenly aware of veterinary achievements throughout the world and actively participate in international scientific meetings. 1/3/5/6/7/11/15/

B. Environmental factors affecting health

1. Topography and climate -- Temperate seasons and abundant rainfall, with only occasional extremes, provide a climate favorable to healthful animal production. 3/ 16/ 17/

2. Socio-economic pattern -- The East German rural population generally cooperates willingly with authorities in carrying out veterinary control measures. Considerable efforts are being made to impress upon farmers the economic significance of animal health and to improve their knowledge of disease preventive measures. 1/ 3/ 15/

4. Nutrition

b. Food supply and distribution -- East German meat consumption is markedly lower than that of West Germany. The country's livestock industry, not yet having completely recovered from the losses incurred during wartime and unsettled immediate post-war years, leaves East Germany a net importer of meat and other livestock products. 1/ 3/ 16/

c. Food sanitation, storage and technology -- East German food sanitation is reasonably adequate. Increased vigilance by veterinary and health authorities have overcome the lax enforcement of sanitary regulations of wartime and immediate post-war years. 1/ 3/ 6/ 7/

C. Diseases

2. Diseases of animals -- Unsettled wartime conditions followed by political interference in veterinary activities, as well as a lack of qualified veterinary

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personnel during post-war years, caused widespread increases in livestock diseases in East Germany. During recent years, however, an increase in the numbers of veterinarians and relaxation of political interference has resulted in marked progress in the fight against animal diseases. Presently, animal disease control measures in East Germany, while not at a comparable level with those in West Germany, are, on the whole, reasonably effective, and a trend towards improvement is occurring. 1/ 2/ 3/ 8/ 10/

a. Prevalent animal diseases

(1) Bovine tuberculosis -- Bovine tuberculosis is the most important livestock disease in East Germany, causing an estimated economic loss of 100 million DM annually. Veterinary authorities have fully recognized the significance of the disease and have launched an extensive tuberculosis eradication campaign. In the course of this campaign all cattle are tuberculin tested; reactors are segregated and gradually eliminated through slaughter. Animals that actively shed tuberculosis bacilli are slaughtered without delay. Although progress in decreasing the incidence of bovine tuberculosis has been made, effective control of the disease is unlikely to be achieved for a considerable period of time. 1/ 3/ 5/ 9/ 10/ 20/

(2) Brucellosis -- Bovine brucellosis is widespread in East Germany, with a particularly high incidence in the northern parts of the country. A control program, far less advanced than that for tuberculosis, consists of calfhood immunization with a Strain 19 vaccine and segregation of reactors prior to eventual slaughter. 1/ 3/ 5/

(3) Foot-and-mouth disease -- Reduction in the incidence of foot-and-mouth disease compares favorably with that in West Germany in recent years. Extensive vaccination, as well as stringent quarantine and sanitation measures, have brought the disease under reasonably effective control. Traditional publicity in rural as well

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as urban communities has helped to secure the population's cooperation in carrying out the necessary control measures. Considerable research is being undertaken to develop new and improved foot-and-mouth disease vaccines. 1/ 2/ 3/ 4/ 5/ 11/

(4) Hog cholera -- Hog cholera is widespread in East Germany; however, extensive immunization (crystal violet type vaccine), forced slaughter and the cooking of all garbage prior to feeding, has kept the disease under fairly effective control. Hog cholera constitutes a particular danger to the recently established swine feeding stations (Schweinemastskombinate) in some of which up to 14,000 hogs are kept in relatively close confinement. In order to prevent the introduction of diseases, all feeding stations are required to obtain their pigs from special pig raising farms (Ferkellieferbetriebe); no pig of unknown origin is permitted to enter a feeding station, a policy which materially aids in the prevention of hog cholera and other swine disease outbreaks. 1/ 2/ 3/ 4/ 5/ 8/ 11/

(5) "Heart failure" (Herztod) -- So-called "heart failure" causes considerable losses among swine in East Germany. The disease is characterized by sudden death due to degenerative changes in the myocardium. Much research as to the etiology of "heart failure" has been undertaken and, although the definite cause has not yet been established, the disease is believed to be of dietary nature. 1/ 3/

(6) Erysipelas -- Swine erysipelas is widespread in East Germany; however, immunization (aluminum hydroxide adsorbed bacterin) and strict attention to sanitary measures have aided in controlling the disease. 1/ 2/ 3/

(7) Rabies -- Rabies is enzootic in sylvatic animals, which serve as sources of infection for domestic animals and man. Government authorities periodically conduct intensive campaigns designed to reduce the number of wild animals. In areas

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where rabies has been reported the movement of dogs and cats is stringently restricted. As in West Germany, immunization is not practiced. East German veterinary authorities feel that rabies vaccine is potentially capable of becoming virulent. 1/ 2/ 4/ 5/ 11/

(8) Fowl pest (Geflugelpest) -- In East Germany Newcastle disease is not differentiated from fowl plague, both diseases being referred to as fowl pest. Fowl pest is very common in East Germany and causes considerable losses in poultry and eggs. Veterinary authorities have initiated a control program based on vaccination (killed vaccine) and slaughter of affected flocks. However, the disease has not yet been brought under effective control. Serious losses are expected to continue for some time. 1/ 2/ 4/ 11/ 12/

b. Other important diseases -- Other important animal diseases in East Germany are Teschen disease (infectious porcine encephalomyelitis), Borna disease (equine encephalomyelitis), infectious equine anemia, swine influenza, porcine salmonellosis, listeriosis, vibriosis, pullorum, bovine trichomoniasis, and deficiency diseases. 1/ 2/ 3/ 4/ 11/ 12/ 20/

D. Veterinary medical organization and administration

1. Civilian

a. Organization -- The Veterinary Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is the main veterinary authority in East Germany. The Division directs the regional veterinary services and also supervises the Veterinary Control and Health Centers (Veterinaruntersuchungs- und Tiergesundheitsamter) and thee State Veterinary Testing Institute in Berlin (Staatliches Veterinarmedizinisches Prufungsinstitut), 52-31N - 13-24E. Figure 1

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There are 15 regions (Bezirke), each under the direction of a Regional Veterinarian (Bezirkstierarzt), who is also responsible for the administration of the Regional Veterinary Clinics.

Regions are subdivided into over 200 rural and urban districts (Kreise), each serviced by a District Veterinarian (Kreistierarzt) to whom state as well as private practitioners are responsible.

The veterinary faculties at the Universities of Berlin and Leipzig (51-18N - 12-20E) and the Veterinary Assistants School in Rostock (54-05N - 12-08E) are directed by the Secretary for Universities and Professional Schools with assistance from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

The Ministry of Health employs a few veterinarians in administrative positions and utilizes the services of Regional and District Veterinarians for food inspection and supervision of public markets, food stores and restaurants.

The German Academy of Agricultural Sciences in Berlin (Deutsche Akademie der Landwirtschaftswissenschaften zu Berlin), the Vaccine Research Institute (Forschungsanstalt fur Impfstoffe) in Dessau (51-50N - 12-15E), and the German Academy of Sciences in Berlin (Deutsche Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin), all of which are conducting significant veterinary research, are autonomous institutions, the former two receiving guidance from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry; and the latter being advised by the State Planning Commission.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, as well as the State Planning Commission, exert an advisory control over plants producing veterinary medicaments. 1/3/5/7/13/14/17/18/19/20/

b. Legal controls

(1) Licensure -- Graduation from an approved veterinary school and completion of a six months' assistantship in a state practice, clinic, laboratory

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or slaughterhouse, is required for a license to practice veterinary medicine. 3/ 19/ 23/

(2) Quarantine -- East German veterinary quarantine and food import laws are basically identical to those in West Germany, differing solely in amendments and additions passed subsequent to World War II. Sections of the Epizootic Disease Legislation (Tierseuchengesetz), originally enacted in 1909, authorize the quarantine of livestock and other animals, while sections of the Meat Inspection Legislation (Fleischbeschaugesetz) of 1900, the Milk Legislation (Milchgesetz) of 1930 and the Food Legislation (Lebensmittelgesetz) of 1927, govern the import of meat, milk and other food products, respectively.

From time to time the regulations of the above legislations are collated and published, together with a commentary, as unofficial documents. New regulations and amendments are published in an official legal journal (Gesetzblatt) prior to being implemented. 1/ 5/ 6/ 7/

(3) Inspection -- The inspection of livestock products in East Germany is adequate. Considerable emphasis is placed on detailed bacteriological and chemical laboratory examinations to support inspection in slaughterhouses, dairy plants, restaurants and food stores. Official testing of veterinary biologicals and pharmaceuticals, as well as of commercial livestock feeds, is carried out by the State Veterinary Testing Institute (Staatliches Veterinarmedizinisches Prufungsinstitut) in Berlin. 1/ 3/ 5/ 6/ 7/

c. Professional veterinary medical organizations -- Most East German veterinarians are members of the Scientific Society for Veterinary Medicine of the German Democratic Republic (Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft fur Veterinarmedizin in der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik). Membership in the Society, which has an

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entirely scientific character, is voluntary.

The Veterinary Section of the German Academy of Agricultural Sciences in Berlin has outstanding veterinary scientists as members; other veterinarians participate in the Academy's activities and publications as collaborators (Mitarbeiter). The professional stature and known independence of the members indicate that election to the Academy is essentially based on professional accomplishments and is not motivated by political pressure. The German Academy of Agricultural Sciences directs the Research Institute for Epizootics (Forschungsanstalt fur Tierseuchen) on the Island of Riems (54-11N - 13-22E) and the Research Institute for Bacterial Epizootics (Forschungsinstitut fur Bakterielle Tierseuchen) in Jena (50-56N - 11-35E).

The veterinary profession is also represented in the German Academy of Sciences in Berlin, a society devoted to the advancement of research in the physical and social sciences. The Academy is directly responsible for the research conducted at the Institute for Comparative Pathology (Institut fur Vergleichende Pathologie) in Berlin-Friedrichsfelde (52-31N - 13-31E). 1/ 3/ 13/ 14/

d. Veterinary research -- Veterinary research is excellent, comparing favorably with that of West Germany. The East German Government is eager to promote veterinary research by appropriating adequate funds and by providing, with a minimum of political interference, financial independence for outstanding veterinary scientists. (See Section 76.) 1/ 3/ 4/ 8/ 11/ 13/ 14/

f. Emergency veterinary services-- East German veterinary services, controlled through strong central authority, can be promptly mobilized in cases of serious animal disease outbreaks. In the past, the veterinary services were seriously hampered by a lack of qualified personnel; however, this manpower shortage has been

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alleviated in recent years and East Germany is currently in a favorable position to cope with possible future epizootics. 1/ 3/ 5/

2. Military veterinary services -- No detailed information on East German military veterinary services is available. However, a few reports indicate that the armed forces utilize, at least in part, the services of civilian veterinarians. 3/ 22/

E. Veterinary manpower

In the immediate post-war years, East Germany's veterinary force did not undergo development comparable to that of West Germany. However, the present number of approximately 1,500 veterinarians is increasing as efforts are being made to attract promising high school graduates to the study of veterinary medicine.

Private practitioners are gradually being replaced by government employed state practitioners (Staatspraktiker). Good salaries and unusually liberal benefits make the positions as state practitioners highly attractive.

In order to relieve veterinarians for more important duties, subprofessional positions such as castrator and claw trimmer, have been established. Such technicians are required to complete special training courses and to pass a rigid examination; their professional activities are strictly defined by law and violations result in heavy fines and possible imprisonment.

Most state practitioners are aided by one or two veterinary assistants, many of whom are now trained at the Veterinary Assistants School (Fachschule fur Veterinarmedizin) in Rostock.

East Germany has veterinary faculties at the Humboldt University in Berlin and at the Karl Marx University in Leipzig. A diploma from a high school or Workers and Farmers Academy is necessary for admission to the veterinary course covering ten

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semesters. A six months' post-graduate assistantship is required for authorization to practice. Presentation of a thesis and successful completion of a special examination lead to the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (Dr. med. vet.). The two veterinary faculties, whose standards of teaching and research approach those of West Germany, are capable of providing an adequate number of veterinarians for East Germany. 1/ 3/ 5/ 8/ 16/ 19/

F. Veterinary medical facilities

East German veterinary facilities for treatment, diagnostic work, clinical investigation and research are adequate in number and reasonably well distributed.

Regional veterinary clinics (Bezirkstierkliniken) treat primarily animals referred to them by practitioners. The clinics are equipped to perform major surgery and to deal with diseases requiring hospitalization.

The Veterinary Control and Health Centers (Veterinaruntersuchungs- und Tiergesundheitsamter) in Rostock, Greifswald (54-06N - 13-23E), Stendal (52-36N - 11-51E), Potsdam (52-24N - 13-04E), Dresden-Buehlau (51-04N - 13-52E), Jena, Halle (51-30N - 12-00E), and Berlin, conduct diagnostic work and clinical investigations.

The State Veterinary Testing Institute in Berlin is responsible for the testing of biologics, pharmaceuticals, and commercial animal feeds, and is also equipped to supplement the diagnostic work of the Veterinary Control and Health Centers.

The most significant East German veterinary research installation is the Research Institute for Epizootics (Forschungsansalt fur Tierseuchen) on the Island of Riems near Greifswald. The Institute, primarily engaged in virus research, has the most modern equipment and is staffed with outstanding veterinary personnel.

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Other important East German research institutions are:

The Research Institute for Bacterial Epizootics (Forschungsinstitut fur Bakterielle Tierseuchen) in Jena;

The Vaccine Research Institute (Forschungsanstalt fur Impfstoffe) in Dessau, with a branch laboratory in Tornau (51-54N - 12-13E);

The Institute for Comparative Pathology (Institut fur Vergleichende Pathologie) in Berlin-Friedrichsfelde.

Additional research is undertaken at various institutes of the veterinary faculties in Berlin and Leipzig. 1/ 3/ 4/ 5/ 11/ 13/ 14/ 21/

G. Veterinary medical supplies and materials

There is no shortage of veterinary medicaments and supplies in East Germany. While the requirements for vaccines and sera are met entirely by East German Government controlled plants, most instruments and some antibiotics and pharmaceuticals are imported from West Germany.

Producers of veterinary biologicals are the Vaccine Research Institute in Dessau and its branch in Tornau; the Research Institute for Epizootics on the Island of Riems; The saxon Serum Plant (Sachsisches Serumwerk) in Celzschau (coordinates unknown); and the Serum Division of the Rostock Veterinary Control and Health Center in Kritzmow (54-03N - 12-03E).

The most important East German pharmaceutical and antibiotic production plants, all of which are government controlled, are the Bernburg People Owned Serum Plant (VEB Serum-Werk Bernburg) in Bernburg (51-48N - 11-44E); the Pharmaceutical Plant of the People Owned Leuna Works (VEB Leuna Werke, Pharmazeutische Betriebe) in Leuna (51-19N - 12-01E) and Mersburg (51-22N - 12-00E); and the Radebeul People Owned Chemical Works (VEB Chemische Werke Radebeul) in Radebeul (51-06N - 13-39E).

With the exception of some biologicals, which are shipped directly to veterinarians, veterinary medicaments and supplies can only be obtained through the Central German

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Trade Office (Deutsche Handelszentrale), which maintains veterinary supply depots in large cities throughout the country.

East Germany exports a considerable amount of veterinary pharmaceuticals to the Soviet Union and other countries of the Communist bloc. 1/ 3/ 21/ 24/

H. Reference data -- Not included in this report.

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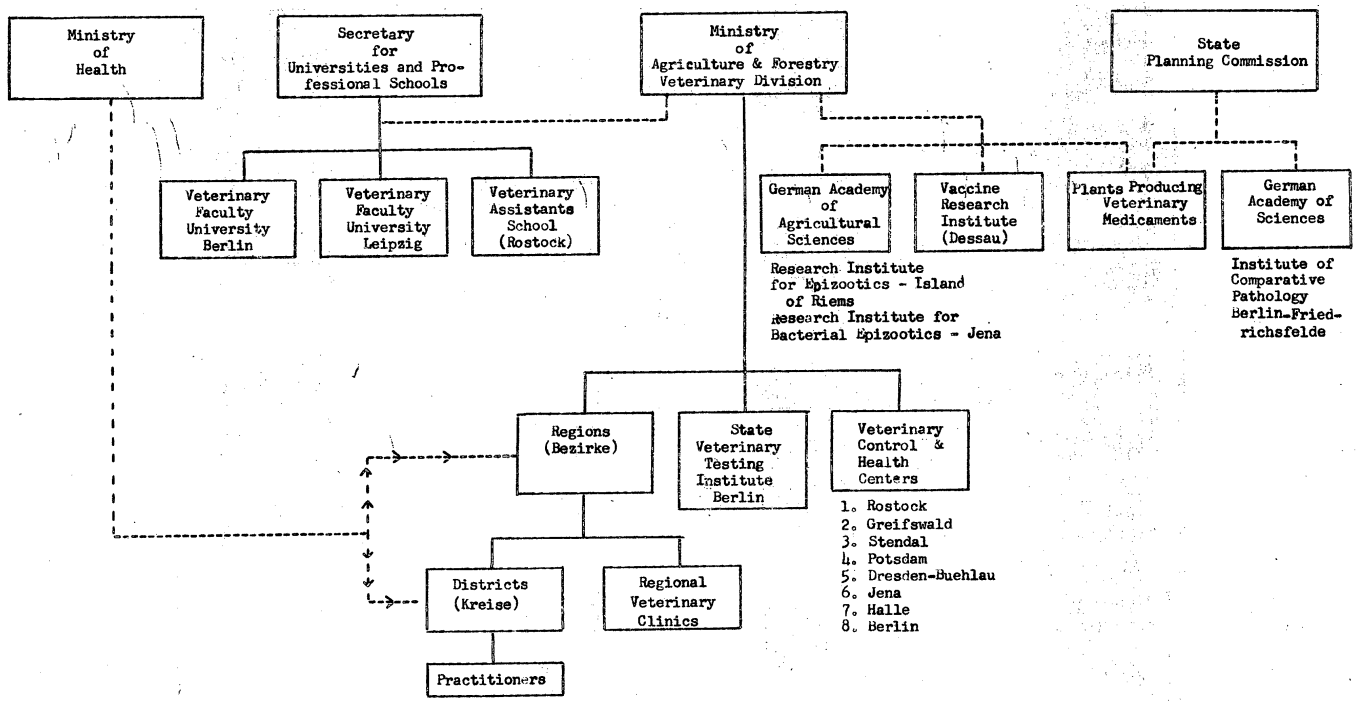
Figure 1: Organization of Veterinary Services in East Germany, 1960.



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